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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/709,436	05/05/2004	Peter Williams	HELI-035-04US 308586-2121	3435
58249	7590	02/24/2009	EXAMINER	
COOLEY GODWARD KRONISH LLP			RILEY, JEZIA	
ATTN: Patent Group			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Suite 1100			1637	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/709,436	WILLIAMS ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Jezia Riley	1637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2008.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 33-40 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 33-40 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 11/24/08 has been entered.

Response to Remarks

Applicants' arguments, filed on 10/22/08, have been approved and entered. They have been fully considered. Rejections and/or objections not reiterated from previous office actions are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections and/or objections are either newly applied or reiterated. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 33-34, 36-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Cheeseman (US 5,302,509).

Cheeseman discloses a method for determining the sequence of nucleotides on a single strand DNA molecule. The single strand DNA molecule is attached to a leader oligonucleotide and its complementary strand to a solid state support. Fluorescently-labeled 3'-blocked nucleotide triphosphates, with each of the bases A, G, C, T having a different fluorescent label, are mixed with the bound DNA molecule in the presence of DNA polymerase. The DNA polymerase causes selective addition of only the complementary labeled NTP, thus identifying the next unpaired base in the unknown DNA strand. The 3'-blocking group is then removed, setting the system up for the next NTP addition and so on. The sequence is repeated until no more fluorescently-labeled NTPs can be detected as being added by the polymerase. (see abstract and col. 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein

were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 35 and 40 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cheeseman (US 5,302,509) in view of Jones (US 5,858,671).

Cheeseman discloses a method for determining the sequence of nucleotides on a single strand DNA molecule. The single strand DNA molecule is attached to a leader oligonucleotide and its complementary strand to a solid state support. Fluorescently-labeled 3'-blocked nucleotide triphosphates, with each of the bases A, G, C, T having a different fluorescent label, are mixed with the bound DNA molecule in the presence of DNA polymerase. The DNA polymerase causes selective addition of only the complementary labeled NTP, thus identifying the next unpaired base in the unknown DNA strand. The 3'-blocking group is then removed, setting the system up for the next NTP addition and so on. The sequence is repeated until no more fluorescently-labeled NTPs can be detected as being added by the polymerase. (see abstract and col. 2).

Jones describes an iterative and regenerative method for sequencing DNA. This method sequences DNA in discrete intervals starting at one end of a double stranded DNA segment. This method overcomes problems inherent in other sequencing methods, including the need for gel resolution of DNA fragments and the generation of artifacts caused by single-stranded DNA secondary structures. A particular advantage

of this invention is that it can create offset collections of DNA segments and sequence the segments in parallel to provide continuous sequence information over long intervals. This method is also suitable for automation and multiplex automation to sequence large sets of segments. (abstract).

The method provides detectable label which can be selected from radioactive labels, fluorescent labels, colorimetric labels, chemiluminescent labels and the like (see claims).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use chemiluminescent label as taught by Jones for the method of Cheeseman. Such label are well used in the art of PCR and therefore will be commonly used as a type of label for detecting nucleic acid sequence. Additionnally Jones generates a library of clones using randomly sheared DNA. These DNA fragments can be dephosphorylated and efficiently cloned with one insert per vector using a vector that requires inactivation of a selectable marker by DNA insertion to be viable in a given E. coli host . Alternatively, a pool of inserts can be size selected over an agarose gel prior to cloning into a vector Using either approach, or other cloning strategies, each vector insert could be amplified using one primer that contains a methylated strand of the recognition domain for a restriction endonuclease that recognizes a hemi-methylated domain but does not recognize a non-methylated domain. This can be accomplished by using a primer that has one strand of the recognition domain sequence, with at least one methylated nucleotide, so that digestion with the corresponding restriction endonuclease will cut that one end of each amplified product, and no other sites. This can be carried out by

amplification with a primer that contains one strand of the recognition domain for DpnI (with a methylated adenine). This strategy allows PCR amplification with normal nucleotides, as PCR with normal nucleotides effectively blocks internal DpnI recognition domains.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jezia Riley whose telephone number is 571-272-0786. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached on 571-272-0782. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jezia Riley/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1637
2/18/2009